

Federal Judicial Center

Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle, NE,
Washington, DC 20002-8003
Tel: (202) 502-4000 Fax: (202) 502-4099
Internet: www.fjc.gov

The Federal Judicial Center, established by Congress in 1967, is the research and education agency of the federal judicial system. The Center's duties include conducting and promoting orientation and continuing education and training for federal judges, court employees, and others; developing recommendations about the operation and study of the federal courts; and conducting and promoting research on federal judicial procedures, court operations, and history. By statute, the Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of the United States chairs the Center's Board, which also includes the director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and seven judges elected by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Board appoints the Center's director and deputy director and in turn the director appoints the Center's staff.

Staff

Director **Barbara J. Rothstein** (202) 502-4160
Affiliation: District Judge, United States District
Court for the Western District of Washington
E-mail: brothstein@fjc.gov
Education: Cornell 1960 BA; Harvard 1966 LLB
Deputy Director **John S. Cooke** (202) 502-4164
E-mail: jcooke@fjc.gov
Education: Carleton 1968 BA; USC 1971 JD;
Virginia 1977 LL.M.
Senior Administrative Assistant **Aaron Adaway** (202) 502-4196
E-mail: aadaway@fjc.gov
Director, Communications Policy and Design Office
Sylvan A. Sobel (202) 502-4250
E-mail: ssobel@fjc.gov Fax: (202) 502-4077
Education: Georgetown 1977 BA;
Wisconsin 1983 JD
Director, Education Division **Bruce M. Clarke** (202) 502-4257
E-mail: bclarke@fjc.gov Fax: (202) 502-4299
Education: Ithaca 1967 BA; Georgetown 1973 JD
Director, Federal Judicial History Office
Bruce Ragsdale (202) 502-4181
E-mail: bragsdal@fjc.gov Fax: (202) 502-4077
Education: Virginia 1974 BA, 1985 PhD
Director, International Judicial Relations Office
Mira Gur-Arie (202) 502-4191
E-mail: mgurarie@fjc.gov
Education: Cornell 1985 BA; NYU 1988 JD
Director, Research Division **James B. Eaglin** (202) 502-4070
E-mail: jeaglin@fjc.gov Fax: (202) 502-4199
Education: Grambling State 1972 BA;
SUNY (Buffalo) 1973 MA, 1975 JD
Director, Systems Innovations and Development Office
Ted E. Coleman (202) 502-4223
E-mail: ted@fjc.gov Fax: (202) 502-4288
Education: Northwest Missouri State 1972 BS
Information Services Chief **Roger N. Karr** (202) 502-4153
E-mail: rkarr@fjc.gov Fax: (202) 502-4077
Education: Maryland 1972 BA, 1976 MLS
Financial Management Officer **Norman K. Baker** (202) 502-4171
E-mail: nbaker@fjc.gov
Education: American U 1975 BA, 1986 MBA
Administrative Services Officer **Michael B. Gross** (202) 502-4168
E-mail: mgross@fjc.gov
Education: Bucknell 1973 BA;
George Washington 1975 MA, 1981 EdD

United States Sentencing Commission

2-500 Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus
Circle, NE, South Lobby, Washington, DC 20002-8002
Tel: (202) 502-4500
Tel: (202) 502-4545 (Guideline Application Assistance Helpline)
Tel: (202) 502-4590 (Public Information)
Tel: (202) 502-4568 (Publications Request Line) Fax: (202) 502-4699
Internet: www.ussc.gov

Created under the provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch and is responsible for establishing guidelines for federal judges to use when sentencing organizations and individuals convicted of federal crimes. The Commission's initial guidelines, as well as the related provisions of the Crime Control Act, went into effect on November 1, 1987. The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The United States Attorney General and the chair of the United States Parole Commission also serve on the Sentencing Commission as non-voting, ex-officio members.

Staff

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Affiliation: District Judge, United States District
Court for the Southern District of Texas
Education: Texas 1972 BA; Harvard 1975 JD
Vice Chair **Ruben Castillo** (202) 502-4500
Education: Loyola (Chicago) 1976 BA;
Northwestern 1979 JD
Vice Chair **William K. Sessions III** (202) 502-4500
Education: Middlebury BA; George Washington JD
Vice Chair **John R. Steer** (202) 502-4500
Education: Clemson 1971 BS, 1975 MS;
South Carolina 1978 JD
Commissioner **Dabney Langhorne Friedrich** (202) 502-4500
Term Expires: October 31, 2009
Education: Trinity U 1988 BA; Yale 1992 JD
Commissioner **Michael E. Horowitz** (202) 502-4500
Education: Brandeis 1984 BA; Harvard 1987 JD
Commissioner **Beryl A. Howell** (202) 502-4500
Term Expires: October 31, 2011
Education: Bryn Mawr BA; Yale JD
Commissioner, ex-officio **Benton Campbell** (202) 502-4500
Education: Yale 1988 BA; Chicago 1991 JD
Commissioner, ex-officio **Edward F. Reilly, Jr.** (202) 502-4500
Education: Kansas BA
Staff Director **Judith W. Sheon** (202) 502-4510
Education: New Orleans 1981 BA; Tulane 1985 JD
Administration Director **Susan Winarsky** (202) 502-4610
Education: Rider 1973 BA
Legislative and Governmental Affairs Director
Lisa A. Rich (202) 502-4627
Education: St Andrews 1990 BA;
American U 1998 JD
Training Director and Chief Counsel
Pamela G. Montgomery (202) 502-4540
Education: Carleton 1978 BA; Georgia 1981 JD
General Counsel **Kenneth P. Cohen** (202) 502-4520
Education: Virginia 1988 BA; Harvard 1993 JD
Research and Data Director **Glenn Schmitt** (202) 502-4530
Education: Indiana State 1983 BS;
Notre Dame 1986 JD; Harvard 1994 MPP
Public Affairs Officer **Michael Courlander** (202) 502-4590
Education: Michigan 1973 BA; Maryland 1978 MA